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COMPANY QUARTER MASTER HAVILDAR ABDUL HAMID

SERVICE NUMBER	2639985
RANK	Company Quarter Master Havildar
NAME	Abdul Hamid
SON OF	Mohammad Usman
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	4 GRENADIERS
SERVICE	Indian Army
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	27 December 1954
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 10 September 1965
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1965 Indo Pak War / Op RIDDLE
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Company Quarter Master Havildar (CQMH) was born on 01 July 1933, in Dhamupur village in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, to Mr. Mohammad Usman and Mrs. Sakina Begum. He had two sisters and three brothers. He completed his education till eighth standard from a junior high school in Deva. Due to the grim financial condition of his family, he couldn't study further and had to join his father at his family's tailoring shop. At a very young age he married Rasloon Bibi and couple had a daughter and four sons. Later, in 1953, at the age of twenty, he joined the Indian Army. He trained at the Grenadiers Regimental Center in Nasirabad and was posted to 4 GRENADIERS in 1955.

The GRENADIERS are an infantry regiment of the Indian army, which was formerly part of the Bombay Army and in pre-independence India, the regiment was known as the 4th Bombay Grenadiers. They distinguished themselves in two world wars and have won battle honours for Gurez, Assal Uttar, Jarpal and Chakra. 4 GRENADIERS had shown their mettle during the 1962 Sino-Indian war. The battalion was part of the 7 Infantry Brigade and participated in the battle of Namka Chu against the Chinese. Again, living true to the regimental war cry of '**Sarvada Shaktishali**', the battalion displayed exemplary valour and fought the enemy with great determination during the 1965 India-Pakistan war. 4 GRENADIERS is a unique example of a battalion that distinguished itself in an intensely fought war without its regular company commanders and specialist platoon commanders¹ CQMH Abdul Hamid of 4 GRENADIERS was awarded the Param Vir Chakra for attending beyond the call of duty. Initially he served in a rifle company and was then sidestepped to the Recoil-Less Platoon (RCL). He served with his battalion in Agra, Amritsar, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, North-East frontier Agency (NEFA) and Ramgarh.

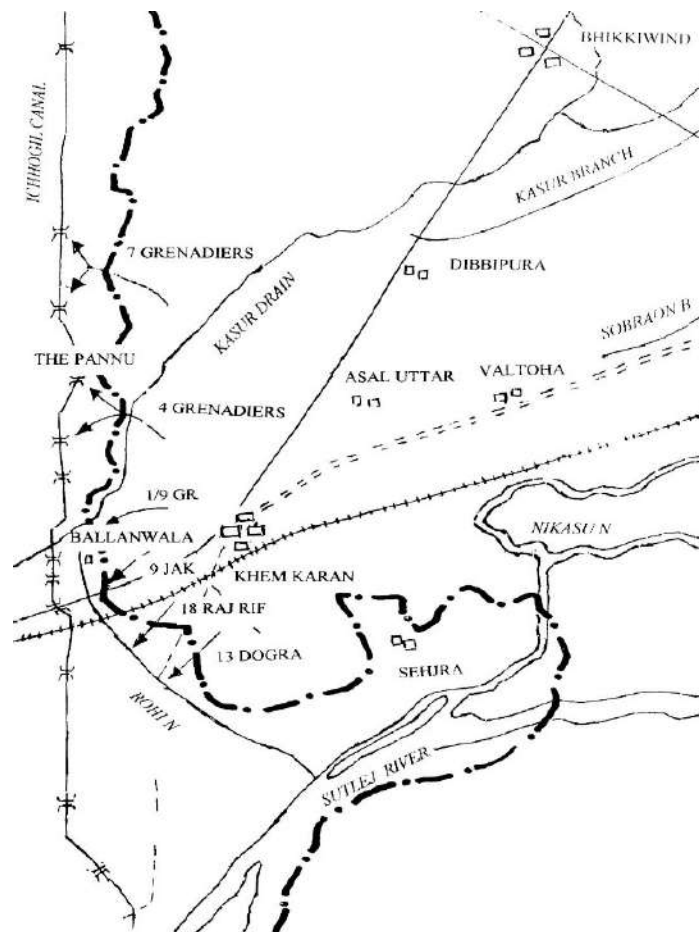
The genesis of Indo-Pak conflict can be traced back to the year 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan are the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir and our frontiers with Pakistan have remained a sensitive zone for years. Pakistan has on and off resorted to firing, incursions and intrusions at several points of these frontiers, compelling India to adopt defensive measures. These attempts of Pakistan have been met by the Indian Armed Forces with commendable bravery and steely resilience, but always with great restraint to not escalate the conflict. The Indo-Pak war of 1965 was the second war fought between these two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the damages of Sino-India war of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence

¹Param Vir: Our Heroes In Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.



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preparation. The war initiated on 24 April 1965, when Pakistan Army, attacked our territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of Indo-Pak Border Agreement 1960 and international law as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar. The 1965 war was fought in various sectors among which, CQMH Abdul Hamid fought in Khem Karan Sector of Punjab.



Sketch showing Mountain Division's offensive plan

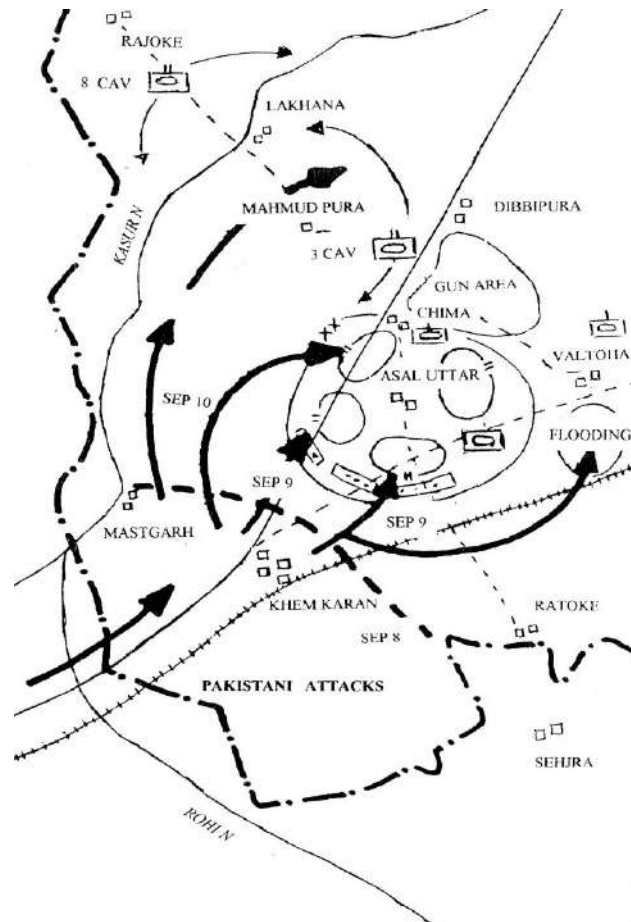
Source: <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/1965-war-battle-of-assal-uttar/>

Khem Karan Sector (India) and Kasur (Pakistan), each five km from the border were connected by a road. Both the towns provide easy access to extensive road networks of their countries. The main obstacles between the two sides were the Ichhogil Canal and Rohil Nala. On the Indian side road Khem Karan- Bhikkiwind leads to Amritsar and road Khem Karan- Patti goes to Harike, providing access to bridges over the Beas. Both these axes pass through a cluster of villages which include Asal Uttar. During the battle of Asal Uttar and Khem Karan 4 GRENADIERS commanded



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by Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) Farat Bhatta displayed indomitable spirit and CQMH Abdul Hamid received a Param Vir Chakra posthumously for knocking out multiple enemy Patton tanks.²



Sketch showing the plan for the Battle of Asal Uttar

Source: <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/1965-war-battle-of-assal-uttar/>

On 08 September at 0000 Hr, 4 GRENADIERS arrived in sector from the area of Ichhogil Canal and commenced frantically to dig down. By the dawn of 08 September, the trenches had gone down barely three feet. No overhead cover was possible and no camouflage necessary as the battalion was in the midst of thick sugarcane fields. At 0730 Hr on 08 September, the rumbling of a large number of enemy tanks were heard. At 0900 Hr a troop of Pattons came astride the road. The battalion held their fire and when the leading tank was 30 yards away CQMH Abdul Hamid knocked it out. The crew of the two follow-up tanks abandoned them and fled. After the

² Sainik Samachar. Colonel Rohan Anand (2015). Vol 62 No 17. Ministry Of Defence Pg no. (7-9)



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unsuccessful attempt of the preceding day, on 09 September 1965, Pakistani forces carried out reconnaissance in force with tanks, throughout the latter part of 09-10 September. The attack came at the 0645 Hours on 10 September 1965. Pakistani tanks came in area Manwan with an aim to bypass the Indian defended sector. At 0830 Hr, an enemy combat group from Pak 4 Armoured Brigade was launched against 4 GRENADIERS but the attack was foiled by artillery concentrations before the enemy infantry could close in on the Indian minefields. Indian armour then came from flanks resulting in a tank battle. CQMH Abdul Hamid was manning a recoilless gun (RLC) here. ³



Jeep used by CQMH Abdul Hamid during 1965 Indo-Pak War

Source: <https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/cqmh-abdul-hamid-pvc/>

On 10 September 1965, around 0800 Hr, Pakistani forces attacked a vital sector ahead of the village of Chima on the Bhikhiwind road in the Khem Karan Sector with a regiment of Patton tanks. There was heavy artillery shelling preceding the attack. By 0900 Hr, the enemy tanks had reached the forward position. Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid, commander of a recoilless gun

³ Param Vir: Our Heroes In Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India. Page no. (98-101)



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detachment, realised the gravity of the situation and moved out to a flanking position with his gun mounted on a jeep amidst heavy enemy shelling and tank fire. He quickly changed positions after taking advantage of a favourable location to take out the leading enemy tank and ignite another tank. After being recognised by the enemy tanks in the region, intense enemy fire with heavy explosives and concentrated machine gun was directed towards his jeep. CQMH Abdul Hamid continued firing his RCL at yet another enemy tank without ceasing. He was fatally wounded while doing so by an enemy high explosive shell. Inspired by the courageous deed of Havildar Abdul Hamid, his companions put up a valiant resistance and repulsed the enemy's massive tank onslaught. He showed total disregard for his own safety throughout the operation, exhibited unwavering bravery in the face of persistent enemy fire, and did so in the greatest traditions of the Indian Army.

For the display of exceptional bravery and conspicuous courage, CQMH Abdul Hamid was awarded Param Vir Chakra posthumously.



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CITATION

No. 2639985 Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid, 4 GRENADIERS (Posthumous)
(Effective date of award- 10 September 1965)

At 0800 hours on 10 September 1965, Pakistani forces launched an attack with a regiment of Patton tanks on a vital area ahead of village Chima on the Bhikhiwind road in the Khem Karan Sector. The attack was preceded by intense artillery shelling. The enemy tanks penetrated the forward position by 0900 hours. Realising the grave situation, Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid, who was commander of a recoilless gun detachment, moved out to a flanking position, with his gun mounted on a jeep, under intense enemy shelling and tank fire. Taking an advantageous position, he knocked out the leading enemy tank, and then swiftly changing his position he sent another tank up in flames. By this time the enemy tanks in the area spotted him and brought his jeep under concentrated machine gun and high explosive fire. Undeterred, Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid kept on firing on yet another enemy tank from his recoilless gun. While so doing he was mortally wounded by an enemy high explosive shell.

Havildar Abdul Hamid's brave action inspired his comrades to put up a gallant fight and to beat back the heavy tank assault by the enemy. His complete disregard of his personal safety during the operation and his sustained act of bravery in the face of constant enemy fire were a shining example not only to his unit but to the whole division and were in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No._____ dated_____



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2. The Monsoon War: Young Officers Reminisce. Capt Amrinder Singh and Lt Gen Tajinder Shergill (2015). Roli Books, New Delhi
3. 1965: A Western Sunrise: India's War with Pakistan. Shiv Kunal Verma (2021). Aleph Book Company, New Delhi
4. The Indian-Pakistan War of 1965: A History. S.N. Prasad. U.P. Thapliyal (2011). Natraj Publishers and Ministry of Defence, Government of India
5. War Despatches: Indo-Pak Conflict 1965. Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh, VrC (1991). Lancer International, New Delhi
6. Concise War Stories of Independent India: A Glance at Nine Decisive Battles. Col J Francis (2021). Vij Books India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
7. Param Vir : Our Heroes In Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.

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<https://usiofindia.org/publication/usi-journal/1965-indo-pak-war-a-critical-appraisal/>
2. Battle of Phillora 1965. War Col Bhaskar Sarkar (Accessed on 8 September 2022)
<http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/battle-of-phillora-1965-war>
3. IAF defeated PAF in 1965 War. Air Vice Marshal AK Tiwary (Accessed on 8 September 2022)
<http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/iaf-defeated-paf-in-1965-war/>
4. The First Air Battle - 3rd September 1965. Gp Capt Mohan Murdeshwar (Accessed on 8 September 2022)
<http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/IAF/history/1965war/1332-manna-murdeshwar.html#gsc.tab=0>



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VIDEOS

Story of CQMH Abdul Hamid (Source: Youtube ADGPI Indian Army)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nPocClgFGQ>

Abdul Hamid: 'असल उत्तर' के वो नायक जिन्होंने Pakistan के Patton Tanks की कब्र बनाई (Source: Youtube BBC News Hindi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02NYuPsIHrE>

Shri Modi meets Rasoolan Bibi ji, the widow of Param Vir Chakra awardee Shaheed Abdul Hameed (Source: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Official Youtube Channel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f36gY1ZU9ns>

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat Unveiled PVC Abdul Hamid Memorial in Ghazipur (Source: Youtube National Defence)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43Nk0TNm34c>

Param Vir Chakra - Master Hawaldar Abdul Hameed (Source: Youtube Aaj Tak)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMJez9zCd5w>

Disclaimer**⁴

⁴ Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.



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MEMORIALS

- CQMH Abdul Hamid's bust at Grenadiers Regimental Center.



Source: <https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/cqmh-abdul-hamid-pvc/>

- CQMH Abdul Hamid's bust at the Param Yodha Sthal in National War Memorial Delhi



Source: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/14>



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- Mazar of the CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC (P) of 4 GRENADIERS at Khem Karan in Taran Taran district of Punjab.



Source: <http://www.punjabjalandhar.info/2013/11/pilgrimage-to-mazar-of-shaheed-abdul.html>

- CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC(P) Memorial was inaugurated at Jodhpur Military Station on 21 September 2015.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/Indianarmy.adgpi/posts/pvc-abdul-hamid-memorial-inaugurated-at-jodhpur-military-station-a-memorial-of-c/421018001428168/>



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- CQMH Abdul Hamid roundabout at Lucknow Cantonment.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/1965-war-hero-abdul-hamid-goes-unsung-on-death-anniv/articleshow/86101861.cms>

- A school named after CQMH Abdul Hamid in Gauspur, Pilana (Baghpat), Uttar Pradesh named '*Veer Abdul Hamid Public School*'.
- A bust statute of CQMH Abdul Hamid in his home town Ghazipur Uttar Pradesh.



Gen Bipin Rawat unveils Memorial to mark the 52nd Anniversary of martyrdom of late CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC at Dhamupur, Ghazipur Uttar Pradesh.

Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-jahan-hindustan-ka-sena-hai-wahan-khatra-kisi-se-nahin-hai-army-chief-gen-bipin-rawat-2544521>



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OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES⁵

- 1) Indian Army 24 Hours | Battle of Asal Uttar (Source: Youtube HISTORY TV18)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TuzdfJUATA>
- 2) India-Pakistan War of 1965- Asal Uttar (Source: Youtube DD NEWS)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZAPMmumwQA
- 3) Battle of Asal Uttar – Largest Tank Battle Since World War II | Mission & Wars
|(Source: Youtube Veer by Discovery)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF0IRQymp_E&t=4s
- 4) 1965 Indo-Pak War Documentary (Source: Youtube Channel Times Now)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfh4uky3rek>
- 5) Indo-Pak War of 1965: Delivering an ‘Asal Uttar’ | Milestone | Making of Modern India
(Source: Youtube Live History India)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJEqvuc_Ok4
- 6) Book- A book titled ‘Jann Gann Mann: PVC Abdul Hamid Story’ by Minaxi narrates the tale of bravery displayed by CQMh Abdul Hamid during 1965 Indo-Pak war.



Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

⁵ Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.



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- 7) Book- A book titled ‘The Brave: Param Vir Chakra Stories’ by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of our twenty-one Param Vir Chakra awardees. It was published by Penguin, India in 2014.

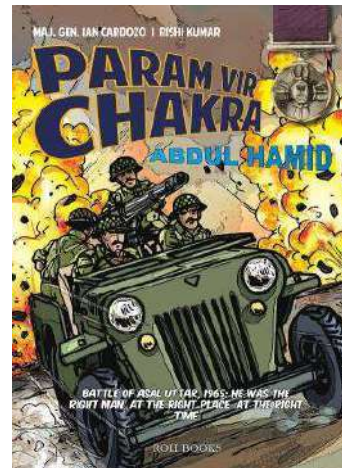
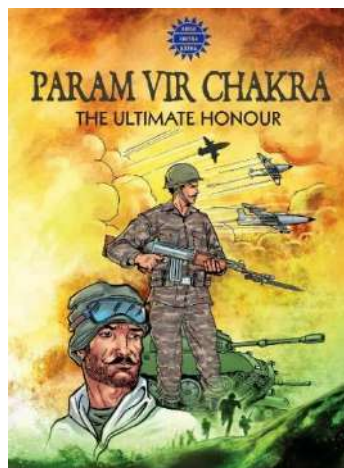
8)



Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 9) Amar Chitra Katha- To honour 21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients, a special comic titled ‘Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour’ was published on 1 January 2015. The book is the result of combined efforts by the Indian Army and Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.

- 10) Roli Comics- ‘Param Vir Chakra CQMH Abdul Hamid: The Battle of Asal Uttar 1967- He was the right man at right place and at the right time’ is comic by Major General Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar. It was published in 2021 by Roli Books, India.



Source: [Source: https://www.amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



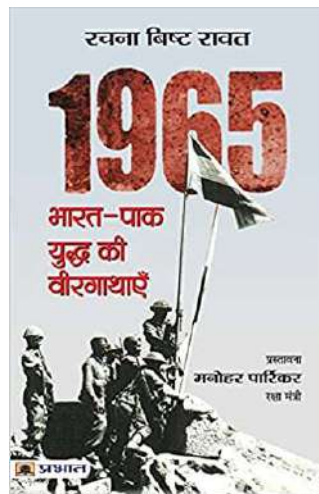
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- 11) Book- Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle by Major General Cardozo was published in 2003 by The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The book provides its readers a vivid description of the gallant actions of India's Param Vir Chakra winners.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 12) 1965 भारत-पाक युद्ध की वीरगाथाएँ-: Param Vir Chakra Stories' by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of from the Indo-Pak war of 1965. It was published by Prabhat Prakashan, India in 2020.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>



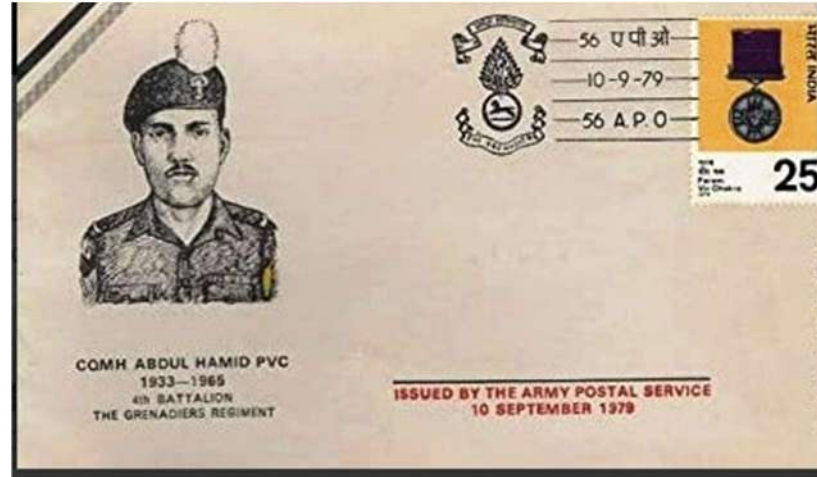
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- 13) A commemorative stamp dedicated to CQMH Abdul Hamid. It was released in 2000 to mark 50 years of Republic India.



Source: <https://istampgallery.com/abdul-hamid/>

- 14) First day cover released by the Army Postal Services in remembrance of CQMH Abdul Hamid



Source: <https://wikibio.in/vir-abdul-hamid/>